

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 5511

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR BG KN CH
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ZIA ATTENDS NORTH KOREA'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

REFS: A. DACCA 5412; B. BELGRADE 5606

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT ZIAUR RAHMAN VISITED PYONGYANG
SEPTEMBER 8-10 TO PARTICIPATE AS CHIEF GUEST IN NORTH KOREA'S
30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. ZIA WAS TREATED TO AN
EXTREMELY WARM RECEPTION AND TRADED PRAISE AND ASSUR-
ANCES OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH KOREAN LEADER KIM IL SUNG.
ZIA AND KIM ALSO HELD SUBSTANTIVE TALKS ON ECONOMIC
AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. WHILE IN PYONGYANG, ZIA MET
BRIEFLY WITH PRC VICE PREMIER TENG TSIAO-PING. MEDIA
REACTION IN BANGLADESH TO THE VISIT WAS EFFUSIVE RIVALING THE
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REPORTS OF ZIA'S VISIT TO THE PRC IN JANUARY 1977. THIS REPORT IS
DRAWN FROM LOCALLY PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS OF THE VISIT TO PYONGYANG.
END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT ZIA WAS TREATED TO CHIEF GUEST HONORS
AND A VARIETY OF ENTERTAINMENT AND RECOGNITION DURING
HIS VISIT TO NORTH KOREA SEPTEMBER 8 THROUGH 10. THE

VISIT, WHICH CAME ON UNUSUALLY SHORT NOTICE, WAS ZIA'S SECOND TO A COMMUNIST COUNTRY, THE OTHER BEING HIS TRIP TO CHINA IN JANUARY 1977. ZIA PRESUMABLY RELISHED THE HONORS AND WARM RECEPTION ACCORDED HIM WHICH INCLUDED A STATE MOTORCADE FROM THE AIRPORT, A BANQUET IN HIS HONOR, VISITS TO FACTORIES AND COMMUNES AND BESTOWAL OF NORTH KOREA'S HIGHEST AWARD, THE STATE BANNER-FIRST CLASS.

2. IN HIS SPEECHES IN PYONGYANG, ZIA CHOSE WORDS SIMILAR TO THOSE USED IN BANGLADESH'S DIALOG WITH CHINA AND FOLLOWED NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT FORMULATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. HE SAID THAT BANGLADESH WANTED FRIENDLY RELATIONS BASED ON SOVEREIGN EQUALITY AND NONINTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER NATIONS. HE CITED BANGLADESH'S EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD, MENTIONING AGREEMENT WITH INDIA ON APPORTIONING GANGES RIVER WATER, AGREEMENTS WITH INDIA AND NEPAL PROVIDING FOR LAND TRANSIT OF NEPALESE GOODS TO BD, THROUGH INDIA AND THE RECENT AGREEMENT WITH BURMA REGARDING REPATRIATION OF BURMESE REFUGEES IN BANGLADESH. HE NOTED BANGLADESH'S "CONSTRUCTIVE, REALISTIC" ROLE IN THE UN, NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT, ISLAMIC CONFERENCE AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS IN UPHOLDING PRINCIPLES OF FAIR PLAY AND DENOUNCING RACISM AND COLONIALISM. IN RESPONSE, PRESIDENT KIM PRAISED BANGLADESH'S SUCCESS IN SECURING POLITICAL STABILITY AND MOVING FORWARD WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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HE PLEDGED NORTH KOREA'S FULL SUPPORT OF BANGLADESH'S EFFORTS TO RESIST OUTSIDE INFLUENCE ON THE BASIS OF NON-ALIGNMENT AND WHAT HE CHARACTERIZED AS BANGLADESH'S "POSITIVE EFFORTS" TO DEVELOP GOOD RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND TURN THE INDIAN OCEAN INTO A NUCLEAR FREE ZONE OF PEACE. HE ASSERTED THAT THE VISIT WOULD CONTRIBUTE GREATLY TO FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. ON THE QUESTION OF KOREAN REUNIFICATION, ZIA ECHOED THE FORMULATION GIVEN IN THE FINAL LANGUAGE ON NAM PRINCIPLES AT THE BELGRADE NAM MINISTERIAL (REF B). HE SUPPORTED REUNIFICATION ON THE BASIS OF THE JOINT NORTH-SOUTH DECLARATION OF JULY 4, 1972 AND FAVORED A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE REUNIFICATION ISSUE BY THE KOREANS THEMSELVES. HE ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE DIALOG BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA AND PRAISED KIM'S "FAR-SIGHTED AND THOUGHTFUL" PROPOSAL FOR REUNIFICATION.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE PUBLIC CEREMONIES, ZIA AND KIM MET PRIVATELY TO DISCUSS SUBSTANTIVE ECONOMIC MATTERS. IN THESE TALKS NORTH KOREA AGREED TO GIVE BANGLADESH 200,000 TONS OF CEMENT IN ADDITION TO THE 100,000 TONS AGREED UPON EARLIER. IN ADDITION, NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION

WILL VISIT BANGLADESH SOON TO DISCUSS TECHNICAL COOPERATION
IN SILK INDUSTRIES, ARTIFICIAL FIBER PRODUCTION, SMALL
IRRIGATION AND SHIPPING.

4. WHILE PYONGYANG, ZIA WAS CALLED ON BY CHINESE
PRIME MINISTER TENG TSIAO-PING. IN THE COURSE OF A
45-MINUTE MEETING THEY DISCUSSED BILATERAL, REGIONAL
AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND FURTHER ECONOMIC AND
TECHNICAL COOPERATION. ZIA ALSO STOPPED IN CANTON ON
THE WAY TO AND FROM PYONGYANG AND MET WITH DEPUTY CHAIR-
MAN OF KWANGTUNG OF THE KWANGTUNG PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE
LIU TIAN-FU.

5. UPON HIS RETURN, ZIA WAS GREETED WITH A FAVORABLE
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PUBLIC REACTION RIVALING THAT ACCORDED HIM UPON HIS RETURN
FROM PEKING IN JANUARY 1977. THE PRESS SPOKE OF THE
VARIETY OF COMMON INTERESTS HELD BY BANGLADESH AND NORTH
KOREA AND EXPRESSED HOPE FOR FRUITFUL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES. PUBLIC COMMENT, ECHOING ZIA'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS DURING
THE VISIT, PRAISED BD-NORTH KOREAN RELATIONS, BUT NOT TO POINT OF
INDICATING ANY INTENTION TO EMBRACE NORTH KOREA AT THE EXPENSE OF
BANGLADESH'S MORE SIGNIFICANT TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH
SOUTH KOREA. DURING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT, IT WAS ANNOUNCED LOCALLY
THAT THE BANGLADESH MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES WAS LEAVING
IMMINENTLY FOR SEOUL TO DISCUSS SOUTH KOREAN INVESTMENT
PROJECTS IN BANGLADESH.
SCHNEIDER

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